THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Manufacturing Ethanol to get rid of surplus sugar

†4032. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have prepared any draft to manufacture ethanol as a measure to get rid of the problem of surplus sugar and utilize it as a automobile fuel as well as to produce energy based on the remaining portion of the extracted sugarcane khoi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether your Ministry have discussion with the concerned Ministries in this regard;

(d) if so, the reaction of these Ministries in this regard; and

(e) what further action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (e) The Ministry is implementing a National Programme on Biomass Power/ Co-generation to produce energy based on the remaining portion of the extracted sugarcane khoi and other forestry and agro residues. The objective of the programme is maximizing surplus power generation from sugar mills using improved technologies and supplement grid power from other biomass conversion technologies. The Programme provides for central financial assistance by way of capital subsidy or interest subsidy for various types of projects in cooperative, public and private sector sugar mills.

Soft loan is available through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency for establishing ethanol production facilities through biomass/sugarcane. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas have commissioned three pilot

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

projects in the country to examine operational, financial, environmental and other impacts of blending of ethanol with motor spirit. It has also set up an inter-Ministerial Task Force to evolve new standards of blending of ethanol with motor spirit and HSD and study other related aspects. This Ministry is in the process of preparing a policy framework for the utilisation of ethanol and other biofuels in transport sector with the participation of concerned Ministries and selected technical institutions.

1 MW Power Plant based on Ocean energy at Tuticorin

4033. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the plan to set up a 1 MW power plant based on ocean energy in the sea of Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu has suffered a major setback;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps have since been taken to make it functional; and

(d) by when, the plant would start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) There has been a setback to the project to set up a floating 1 MW Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) power plant off Tuticorin due to a mishap. During the deployment of one of the major components *i.e.*, the 1000 mtrs. long cold water pipeline with its anchor and mooring system using multiple barges and a ship, the mooring system failed resulting in the cold water pipe system going down to the sea-bed alongwith the anchors.

(c) and (d) A technical Committee and a high level external expert review group reviewed in entire design of the plant and went into the causes of failure and suggested measures for trouble-free installation of the system. After the loss of the cold water pipe system, preparatory action for procurement of new pipes and mooring components etc. has been taken. The procurement of the lost components will be subject to the availability of additional funds for the project. Subject to the weather conditions permitting, it is proposed to carry out trials for commissioning of the system between January—May 2002.